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Amendments to the claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (withdrawn) A method for producing a fabric-elastomer sandwich, comprising the steps of: providing a fabric with at least minute gaps between fibers thereof; placing said fabric with a side thereof on a mold having at least resting portions for the fabric and at least regions which are recessed with respect to said resting portions; applying an elastomer to a side of said fabric that lies opposite to the side directed toward said mold; applying pressure to make the elastomer flow through said minute gaps located at said recessed regions in order to fill said recessed regions with the elastomer; and extracting the formed sandwich from the mold.

2. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, comprising providing said elastomer to be applied to a side of the fabric as a sheet-like element, made of elastomeric material.

3. (withdrawn) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of applying pressure to said elastomer by way of a counter-mold which is shaped so as to mate with said resting portions.

4. (withdrawn) The method of claim 2, comprising the steps of heating and pressing said fabric and elastomer by applying, when said mold and said counter-mold are mated, a temperature capable of liquefying said elastomer and a pressure suitable to make said elastomer flow through said fabric.

5. (withdrawn) The method of claim 4, comprising the step of applying a separation layer between said fabric and said elastomer, said separation layer being adapted to break selectively at said recessed regions in order to allow the elastomer to flow through the fabric, said separation layer being further adapted to allow removal of a continuous layer of elastomer formed on one side of the fabric.

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6. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5, comprising providing said separation layer constituted by a non-oriented plastic film with a thickness of 10 to 40 microns.

7. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5, comprising providing said separation layer constituted by any of a mono- and biaxially oriented plastic film with a thickness between 5 and 25 microns.

8. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5, comprising providing said elastomer constituted by blends based on materials selected from a group including rubber, IR, BR, SBR, NBR, NR, EPDM, EVA.

9. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5, comprising providing said elastomer constituted by silicone rubbers.

10. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5, comprising providing said elastomer as a material of the thermoplastic type, selected from a group including TPU, TR, PVC and other similar materials.

11. (withdrawn) The method of claim 5, wherein in said heating and pressing step temperatures between 140 and 180 °C are provided.

12. (currently amended) A fabric-elastomer sandwich, comprising a fabric woven so as to contain minute gaps that allow passage of elastomeric material therethrough, said fabric having, on at least one side thereof, separate regions which are in relief with respect to the fabric surface, and are formed by an elastomer subjected to pressure and heating such as to make it flow through said minute gaps of the fabric, said separate relief elastomer regions alternating on said at least one fabric side with fabric regions that are completely free of elastomer.

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13. (original) The sandwich of claim 12, comprising said separate elastomer regions on one side thereof and a continuous layer of elastomer on the opposite side.

14. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, comprising a layer of fabric which has, on both sides thereof, separate regions made of the elastomer flowed through said fabric, said separate regions being in relief with respect to said fabric surface.

15. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, wherein the elastomer is constituted by mixtures based on materials selected from a group comprising polyurethane, polyvinyl chloride, polyolefin, natural and synthetic rubber and acrylic, polyurethane and silicone resins.

16. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, wherein the separate elastomer regions have thickness and areas selected according to requirements.

17. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, wherein the separate elastomer regions have a thickness of 2mm.

18. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, wherein the fabric is made of materials selected from a group comprising nylon, polyester, natural fibers and mixed natural and synthetic fibers.

19. (currently amended) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 18, wherein the fibers that make up the fabric are selected from a group comprising ~~cemprise~~. cotton, linen and aramid fibers.

20. (original) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 13, wherein said separate elastomer regions have a discontinuous configuration that provides high elasticity.

21. (currently amended) The fabric-elastomer sandwich of claim 12, further comprising an osmotic membrane which is bonded thereto at least at the fabric regions that are completely free of elastomer ~~that provides~~ so as to provide breathable/impermeable properties to the fabric.

22. (New) A fabric-elastomer sandwich, comprising a woven fabric that contains minute gaps which allow passage of elastomeric material therethrough, said fabric having, on a first side thereof, separate regions which are in relief with respect to the

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fabric surface and are formed by an elastomer flown through said minute gaps, by way of pressure and heating application, from a second, opposite side of the fabric, said separate relief, elastomer regions being provided in a preset configuration in which said elastomer regions alternate on said first side with fabric regions that are completely free of elastomer, and wherein said second, opposite side of the fabric is completely free of elastomer.

23. (new) A fabric-elastomer sandwich, comprising: a woven fabric layer that contains minute gaps which allow passage of elastomeric material therethrough; a plurality of separate elastomer regions provided in relief with respect to the fabric surface on one first side thereof and formed by elastomer flown through said minute gaps by way of pressure and heating application from a second, opposite side of the fabric; a plurality of fabric surface regions that are completely free of elastomer, said separate relief, elastomer regions being arranged in a preset configuration in which the elastomer regions alternate with said fabric surface regions that are completely free of elastomer; a continuous layer of elastomer material arranged on said second fabric side; and a separation layer interposed between said continuous layer of elastomer and said second fabric side, and wherein said separation layer is adapted to break selectively and allow elastomer flowing that forms said separate elastomer regions upon pressure and heating application from said continuous elastomer layer, through said minute gaps, to said first fabric side, said separation layer being further adapted for separation from the fabric along with said continuous elastomer layer.

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Respectfully submitted,



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